

One truth shared: There are blessings to believing in a Triune God.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

Why Do I Believe in a Triune God?

Can I ask you a personal question? How are you doing in your relationship?

What relationship? Good question. It could be the relationship between you and your parent(s). Or, with your boyfriend or girlfriend. How about the relationship with your boss? Your coworkers? Your friends? Is it genuine? Or do you smile through clenched teeth? Is there a relationship in danger right now?

Relationships seldom die because they suddenly have no life left in them. They wither slowly because there's not enough love or commitment.

Can I ask you one more personal question? How's your relationship with God? Ever experience a moment of shakiness in faith? Maybe you forgot God's love and forgiveness. Maybe it feels like an up-and-down experience. One moment, one Sunday... you feel very close to God. The next moment, next Sunday, next month... you feel a million miles away from God.

Here are words that keep you close to him: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." In his triune name, God is reminding you of some very important things for your relationship with him:

- **The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ** - "Grace" is God's loving and forgiving attitude toward you. His name is "Lord" because he purchased and won you on the cross and now you belong to him. His name is "Jesus", the name by which everyone called him here on earth when he came to save us with his grace. His name is "Christ" to indicate his role as your Savior. "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ" continues to hug you even when you are or feel unhuggable!
- **The love of God** - Love is the key ingredient in any relationship. But our love sometimes shifts depending upon the wind. On the arrow of a weather vane on top a barn were these words; "God is Love." Whichever way the wind blows, God is still love! His love for you never changes but follows you wherever you go!
- **The fellowship of the Holy Spirit** - One time, Jesus' disciples asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent" (John 6:28,29). Did you catch that? To believe in Jesus is the *work of God*! It *doesn't* depend on how you feel or how you think he feels about you. The magnet that moves your heart from spiritual blindness to sight, from being spiritually dead to alive, from being an enemy of God to a lover of God... is the *Holy Spirit*. He creates a fellowship, a union, between you and God.

One more time: How are you doing in your relationship? "Grace, love, and fellowship... to *you*." Because of the unified work of the Triune God, your relationship with him—is good!

Prayer: Lord God, accept my praise for revealing yourself to me as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three persons and one God. Hold me fast in my faith, so that your name is with me now and forever. Amen.

Foundation Teen Facilitators Guide

Year A – Holy Trinity

God in Three Persons, Blessed Trinity

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Why Do I Believe in a Triune God?

***Starting the Discussion:** This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.*

- Living life means living in *relationships* with people. Ask each teen to name the three most meaningful relationships in their life with people and to briefly explain why.
- If God was listed in the top three, explain why so many people experience shakiness in their relationship to him.

***Connecting:** This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they've looked at it.*

- One day, each of us will have to give a public account of our relationship with God. What will you say to the Lord on that day?
- Today, let's find out how it's possible to be confident in your relationship with God.

***Digging In:** Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.*

- We want to do what's right. But often our relationship with God is up and down or feels a million miles apart from him. Why? Look up Romans 3:23 to find out.
- *True or false.* The only way to restore confidence in your relationship with God is to emphasize God's part... not your part. Explain why.
- Read 2 Corinthians 13:14 again. What "gift" is connected with each name of the Triune God? (grace, love, fellowship)
 - What do each of those "gifts" mean?
 - How does each gift assure your relationship with him?

***Conclusion:** Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the "connecting question" above.*

- If you want assurance of your relationship with God, why is unhealthy to focus on your part of the relationship?
- An old hymn put it this way: "Nothing in my hand I bring. Simply to Thy cross I cling." Why is that message comforting to you?